

BIG SANDY NEWS.

Aut inveniam viam, aut faciam.

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SURVEY STARTED

For New Railroad From Webbville to Salyersville.

Many Conjectures as to the Meaning and the Backers of Proposed New Line.

A party of engineers began a railroad survey at Webbville, this county, last Monday, and are going in the direction of Blaine.

The engineer in charge recently made trips over the various possible routes and told the natives that his company proposed to build a railroad from Webbville, connecting with the E. K. R. R. to Salyersville. Also, that the line would go up Dry Fork, down Cherokee to the mouth, thence up Blaine creek. It is said there are four possible routes from Blaine creek to Salyersville. It is reported that surveys of all these routes will be made.

The names of the capitalists backing this proposed enterprise have not been given out, but it is said they are amply able to carry out the project. The line would pass through some good country which is now very much handicapped by lack of transportation facilities.

Naturally, the people along the route are very much elated over the prospects of getting a railroad. Some of them have but little faith in the proposition, while others take a more hopeful view.

The following from the Catlettsburg Tribune refers to the above movement:

"Business which seem to possess more than the ordinary significance indicate that the C. H. & D. Company are the prime movers in the extension of the E. K. line. There is a general supposition that these people were contemplating an independent line to tide water and that it was their intention to complete a bridge at or near Ironton, and extend their line across from Russell to intersect the E. K. line about fifteen miles south of Riverton. Their primary object would be to take over the E. K. line, and possibly abandon that part of it between Riverton and the point where it would be intersected by the front line.

The E. K. road in the beginning was a local enterprise, but for years is said to have been controlled by English capital and owing to the fact that the coal and timber have been nearly exhausted that the present line is not paying, the proprietors are anxious to dispose of it. For the past two years the C. H. & D. has been in the hands of Gov. Harmon, of Ohio, as receiver, and some time ago it was stated that the road would be transferred to the B. & O. on the first of this month. This was not done. The announcement is now made that an \$85,000,000 bond issue will be asked for at a meeting of the directors to be held in Cincinnati early next month, proceeds of which will be used in improvement of the road and there is a rumor that a large portion of this fund may be appropriated to carrying out the project above outlined.

Riverview Full to Overflowing.

Riverview hospital is, possibly for the first time, in its history, full to overflowing. Several have been admitted recently, among whom are Joseph Murphy, L. A. Hays, Mr. Keen, Mrs. McComas, of Dingus, W. Va., and Miss Lola Varney, of Canterbury, W. Va. The latter, a mere child of 17, was operated upon for abscess last Saturday. She is small for her age, of delicate physique and wasted by disease. It was a grave question, whether or not she would bear the anesthetic, but an operation was imperative, and it was safely done. At this time the patient is doing well.

New Residence.

William Justice has begun the erection of a new residence, on Perry street, opposite the residence of A. J. Garred. It will be a modern frame, two stories high.

Return of the Wanderers.

Bill Jim Chaffin and Billy Burton have returned from the wilds of the woolly west. Ec. Berry, of Blaine, stopped a day or so in St. Louis to see an old friend, the Rev. Stambaugh, formerly of this county.

Bill Jim is looking as brown as a berry—ever see a brown berry?—and feels fine. If you don't want to catch a bad case of western fever, particularly of the Galveston sort, give Bill a wide berth.

Broken Loose Again.

The Inez Munchausen has broken loose once more. This time it's a ghost story, or a disappearing man. It is likely that the man is the individual who was kidnapped by a woman some months ago and carried off to the "mountain fastnesses" of the State of Martin.

The Huntington correspondent of the daily press must look to his laurels.

NEWS OF THE OIL FIELDS.

Matters of Interest in Kentucky and West Virginia Territory.

Lexington, Ky., July 18.—The past week in Kentucky oil development has shown a little greater activity. Some strikes of importance resulted from the week's drilling campaign, and a number of new rigs are up and moving.

The feature of the week was the strike in the Mt. Pisgah district, Wayne county, by a Pennsylvania company. An old-time gushing well was drilled, the oil flowing with great force. The gas which accompanied the oil flow became ignited and a bad fire resulted, but was checked before the drilling rig was destroyed. The well shows up for 100 barrels. It is in an established pool, but shows up as the best oil drilled recently in the Mt. Pisgah district.

Other strikes of the week in Wayne include a fifteen-barrel strike in the Cooper district, and a producer of the same size at Pardeysville. Both of these completions are well within the limits of the proven area. In the lower end of Wayne county, contiguous to Mt. Pisgah, most of the test drilling is now centered. While rigs engaged in this class of development are not as numerous as formerly, a fair appearance of activity is maintained, and recent good results assure a continuation of activity, notwithstanding the depressed stage of the crude oil market.

While the Wayne county districts of lower Kentucky are managing to hold their own fairly well, the low price of oil has almost knocked out the industry in other districts of lower Kentucky. The only new work in sight this week is the test drilling being inaugurated in Clay county by Guffy & Galey. Drilling machinery was taken into Clay county last week by the contractors, and two wells will soon be in course of drilling. Locations have been made not far from the famous Burning Spring region, and the prospects are favorable for the development of a new field in that direction.

Several rigs continue in operation in Wolfe county. In that field the depth of the oil-bearing sand makes work slower than in the shallow sand fields of lower Kentucky. Old wells continue to make a fair showing.

Two fields which will eventually receive a more thorough development, but not, perhaps, until the price of oil goes higher, is the section bordering the Ohio river, lying south of the Indiana developments, and the Lawrence county district, in Eastern Kentucky. The proximity of the old Indiana and West Virginia developments in these two instances arouses interests in the possibilities of oil production on the Kentucky side. In Lawrence county, developments on a small scale were recently started.

The two purchasing companies, the Standard Oil Company and the Indian Refining Company, continue quotations of 75 cents and 78 cents, respectively, on Kentucky crude oil. The Indian Refining Company is not purchasing extensively in the Kentucky market, getting most of its crude oil from Illinois.

Production for the week shows a decline, the runs approximating 10,000 barrels.

THE BIG SANDY.

Report of Col. Warren on River Improvement.

Interesting Figures on What Has Been Done and Recommendations for Future.

The original project providing for the improvement of the Big Sandy river and Levisa and Tug forks was adopted July 18, 1878. The amount expended on operations prior to the existing project, exclusive of maintenance on the two forks, was \$380,590.60. The existing project, adopted March 3, 1899, contemplates carrying slack water from the Ohio river to Pikeville, on Levisa fork and to the mouth of Pond creek on Tug fork, by the construction of 21 locks and dams, at an estimated cost of \$4,725,000. The survey developed that only two locks and dams would be required for the main river. The sum expended on the work of the existing project up to the close of the last fiscal year was \$1,018,978.91.

Colonel Warren recommends that a small dredger, to cost about \$20,000, be established, as it is necessary to the improvement. The locks and dams constructed on the Big Sandy river provide a minimum draft of 6 feet, while the minimum draft that can be carried over the shoalest places of the forks at mean low water is uncertain and changeable, says Colonel Warren.

The Big Sandy is navigable by steamer from Catlettsburg, its mouth, up to Louisa, Ky., a distance of 27 miles, and from there to Chapman, Ky., on Levisa fork, a distance of 9 miles, and to Salspeter, W. Va., on Tug fork, a distance of 4 miles.

The financial report shows that on July 1, 1908, there was an unexpended balance of \$271,583.25. Of this \$172,341.91 was expended during the last fiscal year. The balance available July 1 last was \$147,839.10. Colonel Warren estimates that \$3,705,000 will be required to complete the existing project.

The cost of operating and care of locks and dams up to June 30 last was \$123,889.94, of which \$42,152.51 was expended during the last fiscal year. The total commerce for 1908 was approximately 111,168 tons, valued at \$762,714.88, and 447 passengers.

Buys 2000 Acres of Coal Land.

Regarding the purchase of coal lands in West Virginia, concerning which reports have been current, Mr. J. L. Caldwell, of Huntington, W. Va., writes the Manufacturers' Record that the Dingsess Run Coal Company, of Huntington, of which he is president, has bought a tract of 3000 acres for a cash consideration of \$75,000. This acquisition, added to the present holdings of the company, makes an aggregate of about 20,000 acres in one tract. The property is located on the dividing ridge between the Guyandotte and Coal rivers, east of Logan Court House, and contains a vein of coal five feet and two inches thick of the Blue Sullat variety. It was purchased for the purpose of leasing to operators, 7000 acres of the total already being under lease to five operating companies. The terminus of the Guyandotte Valley branch of the Chesapeake & Ohio Railway is located on the property.

Imprisonment For Life.

This is the verdict of the jury which tried William Sprouse at Grayson last week for the murder of the Cooper family last fall. It is presumed that the case, as was done after the first trial, will be appealed. Frank Kelley's case will be called next September.

Extension of Mountain Line.

W. R. Gordon, of Detroit, will act as chief engineer in charge of the survey for the extension of forty miles which is to be made by the Eastern Kentucky railroad in Carter county. Several State University students will assist him.

Crabbe Indorses Plan.

J. G. Crabbe, Superintendent of Public Instruction for Kentucky, has written an indorsement of the plan of the Jefferson County School Improvement League, which proposes a consolidation of country schools. In his letter Mr. Crabbe states that better classification of pupils, better teachers, more time for recitations and better health would result from a consolidation of isolated schools. He expresses the hope that the project will be carried through.

Five Hundred Feet in This State.

The Hatfield tunnel, a short distance below Matewan, and which is in this State. At this point the road comes into Kentucky, runs into a hole 500 feet long and crosses right back of money to build this tunnel, but of money to build this tunnel, but the States rates it for taxation at \$20,000.

FORTY-SIXTH ANNIVERSARY

Of Raid by Morgan's Cavalry Into Territory Near Here.

About this time forty-six years ago the people of this section, including an area of fifteen or twenty miles in all directions from Catlettsburg, were pretty badly stirred up. General John H. Morgan, with about 2,500 Confederate cavalry, had crossed into Indiana and gone East, passing through the suburbs of Cincinnati, arriving at Buffington Island July 19 with 1,700 men.

Fully 100,000 State militia were after them at one time or another during the raids through Indiana and Ohio, besides a body of Federal cavalry 3,000 strong. The object of the raid had been to draw troops from concentrating with Gen. Bragg around Chickamauga, and it had succeeded to a certain extent.

When Gen. Morgan reached Buffington Island he found the river swollen from late melted snows and almost impossible to ford. Some 300 of the men did swim across, but the others had to face the Federal troops, more than 10,000 strong, with the militia, at the fording place. Several hundred men fell in the fighting there, but Gen. Morgan escaped with 500 men to the Pennsylvania line, where after about a week's further resistance and constant fighting he surrendered. Gen. Duke was a Colonel in command of the First Brigade during the raid, and Col. James W. Bowles, also of Louisville, was in it. The Federal troops and cavalry were under the command of Gen. Judah and Gen. Hobson, and gunboats assisted them in the Buffington engagement. For the rapidity and endurance displayed by Morgan's men history scarcely has a parallel.

Teachers' Institute August 23.

The teachers of this county are to be congratulated upon the selection of Profs. Byington and Kennison as conductors of this year's institute. They may rely upon it that there will not be an idle or wasted minute during the meeting. Professors Kennison and Byington know, personally, the teachers in this county, know their needs and their condition. These practical, competent instructors will deal in no abstract vaporings upon subjects of no earthly use or interest to anybody, but will present in clear, comprehensible terms such ideas and thoughts as will be of use to all who hear.

Two Have Been Found.

Previous to his coming to this city Prof. Byington had shipped to Louisa a box containing thirty-five Yale locks, each having four keys. These locks were stolen shortly after they reached their destination, and it was not until this week that any clue to them was obtained.

A day or so ago one was found on a door in the house recently occupied by Marion Damron, and one was found in possession of a party, an innocent purchaser, who lives near Louisa. It is quite likely that the clue now had will lead to interesting results.

NEW RAILROAD.

Construction Contract Let to Local Company.

Miller's Creek Railroad Near Paintsville to be Built This Season--Work Already Started.

The contract for building the Miller's Creek Railroad has been let to a company composed of Dr. M. G. Watson, Dr. W. L. Walter and P. C. Turner. The contract includes the building of two large and two small piers in the river, upon which a bridge will be constructed. The total amount of the contract is about \$40,000.00. The bids were opened last Monday and the bond was executed Tuesday. Machinery with which to start the work was shipped the same day. C. B. Crutcher is already on the ground preparing to begin business.

The Miller's Creek railroad is to be a short coal line near Paintsville, on the opposite side of the river. The length of the road will be three and a half miles under the present contract, but ultimately it will be extended to a total of twelve miles. The line will connect with the C. & O. by a bridge across the river just above Paintsville.

The road is being built by the interests that are preparing to develop the Miller's Creek coal under the name of the Consolidation Coal Company. The short line will penetrate this fine coal field for a distance of about three miles, as the first half mile of road will reach the edge of the property.

Dr. Watson and Dr. Walters will give most of their time to the supervision of the work. Buck Crutcher will be their chief assistant.

A Good Citizen Gone.

Jarred Hughes, a well known and highly respected citizen of this county, died at his home five miles from Louisa on Saturday last after a long and painful illness. Interment near his late residence was made on the following day.

He left a widow and several children, all grown, to mourn the loss of a good husband and father. His illness was caused by an affection of the liver.

Mr. Hughes was in all respects a good citizen. He was an industrious man, sober, moral and honest. Such men are sadly missed when death call them away, and Jarred Hughes will be missed and long remembered by his neighbors. He was about 65 years of age.

Highest Grade and Average.

At the recent teachers' examination in Johnson county the highest general average grade was made by a student of the Kentucky Normal College, Mr. Roscoe Murray. Not only the best grade at this examination, but Mr. Murray made the highest grade during the administration of the present County Superintendent, and has the highest grade certificate now in force in the county. Mr. Murray's grade was 97 per cent. He will be principal of the Paintsville Graded School this year.

At present Mr. Murray is attending the summer term of the K. N. C., where he is doing excellent work, and hopes to complete the scientific course by next commencement.

Death of M. F. Fleming.

M. F. Fleming, for a long time with the Northern Coal & Coke Co., but who for the past three years had been employed by J. C. C. Mayo, of Paintsville, in looking after his extensive mineral land interests, died at Paintsville Saturday from cancer.

Mr. Fleming is survived by his wife and two sons, Earl and William. The remains, accompanied by the family, R. A. Patrick, G. C. Copeland and Miss Emma Wallace, of Louisa, were brought to Ashland on the O. & B. S. train and taken over the Lexington division to Mt. Carmel, Ill., near Louisville, for interment.

Got Frightened and Ran.

A day or so ago Miss Roberta Dixon took a friend for a drive to Fountain Park. They arrived safe, got out of the car and hitched the pony to a bench. Here's where trouble shortly began. The pony began to nip the grass, moving about as it did so. Presently all the slack in the lines was taken up and the bench began to move. Now, the pony had once been a circus horse and was accustomed to all sorts of sights—clowns, balloons, elephants, red leopards and concerts after the performance, but a walking bench was just a little too much, and she immediately had a fit—a fit of running. She ran until she and the cart went into a ditch, the cart on top. Here pony's circus training came in good, for she lay still until help came and she and the fragments of the wagon were dug out. Pony was only slightly hurt, but when Roberta asked her if she wanted to go to the park this morning she promptly said "Neigh!"

W. VA. CONFERENCE

May Lose the Kentucky Portion of its Territory Next Year.

At the next meeting of the General Conference of the M. E. Church, South, a memorial will be presented praying that that portion of the Western Virginia Conference now located in Kentucky be detached from the Western Virginia Conference and attached to the Kentucky Conference where it is claimed that it naturally belongs.

This territory includes what is known as the Ashland district and embraces a large number of members and includes considerable valuable church property, being, in fact, one of the strongest districts in the Western Virginia Conference. At the time the boundaries of these conferences were fixed the Western Virginia Conference was weak, the membership being no more than one-eighth of what it now numbers, while the Kentucky Conference included much more territory than it now includes and had a strong membership, both numerically and financially, hence could well afford to permit a portion of the State to be allotted to its neighboring conference.

Now, however, the Western Virginia Conference has become one of the leading ones in the entire church and would still be very important a fier detaching the Ashland district.

There are said to be many ministers of the conference who favor the proposition, but it would be like separation from an old friend to many of the older ministers of the Western Virginia Conference, who have lived and labored in the district many years.

Camp Chapman.

Several Louisa ladies went into camp at Chapman Wednesday morning and were joined by several others later in the week. They gathered at the depot early in the morning, ready for entraining at 7:24. They were accompanied by the usual amount of impedimenta; big box, little box, handbox and bundle; coats, chicken and chaperones; suit cases, sachels and sandwiches. They wouldn't say how long they will be gone, but they will stay over Sunday.

Those who went are Mrs. F. L. Stewart, Mrs. R. L. Vinson, Misses Jennie Warnhoff, of St. Louis, Ellen Skene, Willie Frazier, Lella Snyder and Vivian Hays, and Jim Ferguson. They will be joined by Misses Heloise Thomas, Bessie Snyder, Emma Carey and Mrs. H. G. Wellman.

Boggs, Belcher & Sullivan.

This firm of wood-workers has recently been greatly strengthened by the addition of Mr. M. P. Pinson, a man of many years' experience in all that pertains to a planing mill and the manufacture of doors, windows and all that enters into the building of a house. Mr. Pinson goes into the firm as president and superintendent. This Louisa enterprise is worthy of the patronage of our people.

Miss Lizzie Bromley went to Charleston, W. Va., on Wednesday for the purpose of taking a commercial course in a business college there.